

CHILE

MISION PERMANENTE ANTE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

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STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE DELEGATION OF CHILE
AT THE HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE
ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND
DEVELOPMENT

New York, 14 September, 2006

Madame President,

My delegation welcomes the decision of the General Assembly to hold this High-Level Dialogue on the highly relevant topic of international migration and development. We are sure that this initiative will place this social phenomenon, involving almost two hundred million people in the world, at the centre of the United Nations agenda.

Through this forum, we hope to help to enhance international cooperation in this area, exchanging ideas, experience and best practices, in order to advance in the quest for concrete solutions to the varied problems stemming from international migration and its effects on development.

Let me recall that the President of Chile, Mrs. Michelle Bachelet, also lived the experience of being a migrant, when in the middle of the seventies, due to political reasons, she had to leave her country. This is why she knows and feels very closely the adversities of leaving the homeland and loved ones.

The position of Chile in the key subject of migration is basically reflected in The Declaration of Asuncion, adopted at the VI South American Conference on Migration, held in May 2006, and in the Declaration of Santiago on Migration Principles, agreed upon at the MERCOSUR Meeting of Ministers of the Interior and its Associate States, held in May 2004.

One of the central themes of this debate should be the development dimension of migration, and particularly its contribution to poverty reduction. And so the main challenge facing us is to make international migration a positive force for the comprehensive development of our peoples.

To this end, we must see how the sizeable resources created by remittances can be channeled towards development objectives that benefit the immigrant and the immigrant's family. As we know, the funds that migrants send home to developing countries amounted to over 167 billion dollars in 2005, which is much more than the totality of all types of international assistance.

This is why Chile considers that the cost of transfer of remittances should be reduced, that remittance flows should be facilitated and that development-oriented investments in recipient countries should be encouraged, supplementing and complementing official development assistance (ODA).

In addition, we share, jointly with the Latin-American and Caribbean states, the concern about the rights of migrants and their families. In this spirit, Chile last year ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, because it considers that this text provides an appropriate legal framework and a good basis for advancing towards these goals.

five continents and in some one hundred countries. As a result of this effort, ties were established between Chilean society and the community of Chileans abroad.

Madame President,

We are sure that there is growing recognition in the international community of the reality of migration, as well as a growing awareness of migrants' rights and of the benefits